Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 269046
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY:RPERITO
APPROVED BY:RPERITO
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 269046

NODIS
FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 18455 ACTION SECSTATE DATED NOV 09:

QTE: S E C R E T LONDON 18455

NODIS

FROM GELB

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SALT UK
SUBJECT: SALT: DISCUSSION WITH LONDON ECONOMIST

1. AT CHARGE STREATOR'S BEHEST AND BECAUSE IT WAS RAISED IN MOBERLY CONVERSATION, I MET NOV 8 WITH ANDREW KNIGHT, EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST, AND SOME OF HIS PEOPLE.

2. OBJECT WAS TO DISPEL THRUST OF RECENT ARTICLE IN THEIR JOURNAL TO EFFECT THAT SALT II WOULD PUT US IN INFERIOR POSITION, AND THAT US HAD PROMISED SOVIETS NOT TO TRANSFER CRUISE MISSILE TECHNOLOGY TO ALLIES.

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3. KNIGHT BEGAN BY ASKING WHAT I HAD TO DO WITH THIS SUBJECT SINCE, HE THOUGHT, I ONLY SOLD ARMS. I RESPONDED WITH A MODEST DESCRIPTION OF MY RESPONSIBILITIES.

4. KNIGHT AND THE OTHERS HAVE BEEN TALKING RECENTLY IN WASHINGTON TO "A VARIETY OF HIGH OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN

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SALT."

5. WE SPENT SOME TIME TALKING ABOUT GROWING SOVIET CAPABILITY TO DESTROY OUR ICBMS, AND HE SEEMED AT LEAST SOMEWHAT SHAKEN FROM HIS CERTAINTY ABOUT THE VALUE OF AGREEMENT AS OPPOSED TO NO AGREEMENT. WE AGREED TO DIFFER ON WHETHER WE COULD BE GETTING "A BETTER" AGREEMENT.

6. ON THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY QUESTIONS, HE SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD LINE IN PARA 2 ABOVE BY A HIGH OFFICIAL WHO WANTED THE ECONOMIST TO ARGUE AGAINST SUCH TRANSFERS. HE SAID OTHERS WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION HAD CONFIRMED THIS. IN ADDITION, HE CLEARLY GAVE IMPRESSION THAT MANY IN ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN TELLING THEM PROSPECTIVE AGREEMENT AS A WHOLE IS BAD.

7. I SAID HIS TRANSFER STATEMENT IN ARTICLE WAS FALSE, THAT ALLIES KNEW WHAT WE WERE SAYING TO SOVIETS ON THIS ISSUE AND HAD RAISED NO SERIOUS OBJECTIONS, AND THAT OF COURSE WE WOULD NOT CIRCUMVENT ANY AGREEMENT WE SIGNED. I SAID I WOULDN'T SAY MORE, BUT THAT SOMEONE WAS MISLEADING HIM. HE ENDED BY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HE WAS NOW CONFUSED.

STREATOR UNQTE VANCE
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Subject: SALT: DISCUSSION WITH LONDON ECONOMIST
TAGS: PARM, UK, US, UR
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